



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Office of Public Affairs  
Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard (P-19J)  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Illinois Indiana  
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# Dead Creek Cleanup Update

St. Clair County, Illinois

September 2000

## Introduction

This fact sheet provides an update of cleanup activities of Dead Creek, which is part of the Sauget Area 1 Site in the villages of Sauget and Cahokia, in St. Clair County, Illinois. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in coordination with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), is overseeing the investigation and cleanup of Dead Creek.



## Current Status

On May 31, 2000, EPA issued a Unilateral Order requiring Solutia, Incorporated (Solutia) and the Monsanto Company (Monsanto) to remove sediments along Dead Creek from Queeny Avenue south to Route 157 (Camp Jackson Road). Pursuant to this Order, approximately 50,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments (polychlorinated biphenyls [PCBs], heavy metals and some organic contaminants) will be removed, drained of any moisture and placed in an on-site Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) containment cell.

This above-ground containment cell will be located north of Judith Lane along the west bank of Dead Creek. The cell will cover approximately 5 acres and will rise about 25 feet above the surface. The containment cell will be positioned so that its base sits higher than the natural ground surface and the cell will be double-lined with synthetic material to minimize the possibility of leaks reaching the underlying groundwater. Leak detection systems will also be built into the cell, and groundwater will be routinely monitored to ensure that none of the contamination in the cell releases to the environment.

The removal of contaminated sediments in Dead Creek will begin early Spring 2001. However some preparatory activities are expected to begin this fall. Next spring, residents living along Dead Creek can expect to see workers dressed in protective suits, with some wearing respirators, while they are conducting this work.

In addition to the above contaminated sediment removal project, an additional investigation of Sauget Area 1 wastes is currently being conducted under a separate enforcement agreement between EPA, Solutia and Monsanto. Pursuant to this agreement, Solutia and Monsanto recently collected soil samples from several homes along Dead Creek. Preliminary results show no unsafe levels of metals, PCBs, or other contaminants associated with the Dead Creek contamination. Those residents who had their properties sampled should receive their results from Solutia within the next several weeks.

Also pursuant to this agreement, Monsanto and Solutia are conducting a comprehensive residential risk assessment for the Sauget Area 1 site. This risk assessment, which should be completed by Spring 2001, will detail what risks, if any, the Sauget Area 1 site may pose to the health of residents.



## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions about the information in this fact sheet or the Sauget Area 1 & 2 Superfund sites, please write or call the contacts listed below.

### U.S. EPA Contacts

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**Sauget Areas 1 & 2 Superfund Site Information is available for review at the information repository at:**

**Cahokia Public Library  
140 Cahokia Avenue  
Cahokia, IL 62202  
(618) 332-1491**

Site documents are also available for review in the U.S. EPA Records Center (7<sup>th</sup> Floor) in Chicago, Illinois.

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